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1 NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
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45 DR. FLETCHER  
67 SKYLAB AWARDS CEREMONY  
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1011 NASA Headquarters  
1213 Thursday, April 18, 1974  
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1617 (TRANSCRIPT OF TAPE RECORDING)  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(START OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE.)

DR. FLETCHER : This is an Awards Ceremony. . . .

This is all in the family, this morning, and so we can be careless about what we say and be a lot less formal.

I'd like to welcome to you to this Special Skylab Awards Ceremony. And with me on the stand -- just raise your hands -- you don't have to stand up.

Here is( ), Deputy Administrator; Ron Pappacello, Deputy Associate Administrator; Willis Chapley, Associate Deputy Administrator; Dale Meyers, doesn't have a title, Associate Administrator for Manned Space Flights; Bill Snyder, formerly Skylab Program Director and now Acting Associate Administrator for Manned Space Flights; and finally we have( ), Deputy Director of the Goddard Space Flight Center.

I hope you'll understand that our decision to dispense with the usual formality with band music and groups of flags and so forth.

It didn't seem appropriate when it was all in the family, so to speak. And so with that, not as a policy but as an explanation, then we will continue the Ceremony.

I wish to welcome you all and thank you for your presence here today.

We are gathered to honor some of those who have made

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1 outstanding contributions to the success of the Skylab Program.  
2 Now, last fall, at the Marshall Space Flight Center,  
3 after we completed the second Manned Mission and we made Skylab  
4 officially a success, that is, we could have quit there and  
5 still been ahead.

6 At that time, we honored many of those in the NASA  
7 family who helped with that success, including Bill Snyder,  
8 the Program Manager, and the crews of Skylab II and III -- the  
9 first two crews.

10 The names of those from Headquarters honored at  
11 that time, if you will notice, are listed in the Program that  
12 you have today.

13 Last month, as you know, the President paid special  
14 tribute to the success of Skylab and presented awards to the  
15 crew of Skylab IV during his visit to the Johnson Space Flight  
16 Center.

17 And so we honor today and tomorrow in ceremonies at  
18 the Johnson, Marshall, and Kennedy Centers, those in Headquarters  
19 and include others in the NASA family who have earned special  
20 recognition for their role in Skylab -- and, in addition, --  
21 some of our colleagues in industry who have made special  
22 contributions as an essential part of the Skylab team.

23 I think the industrial people will not be in the  
24 Ceremony this morning down at the other space centers.

25 Skylab has been such a vast and many-faceted activity

1 that we have slated yet another category of Skylab Awards for  
2 future occasions.

3 Skylab, when it was going on, to the people involved,  
4 seemed like an awful long time -- 471 days. It seemed like it  
5 would never end.

6 But now that it is over, it seems like it went rather  
7 rapidly, and we are a little bit frustrated that Skylab isn't  
8 still up there and that we have all those worries.

9 So, this is why we have so many awards. Much was  
10 accomplished in such a short time.

11 In a few months, we plan to honor some of the most  
12 outstanding of the scientists and experimenters, whose efforts  
13 in the planning and design of experiments, and the analysis  
14 and interpretations of results, the ultimate benefits from  
15 the Skylab Mission are being achieved.

16 Now, as we honor a select few, we at the same time,  
17 pay tribute to all those who have been previously been honored  
18 for their achievements in Apollo, in other programs, and have  
19 also made exceptional contributions to Skylab.

20 We must always be mindful of all the efforts of all  
21 the other men on the NASA team. Without them, neither Skylab  
22 nor a success would have been possible.

23 During the past year, many eloquent words have been  
24 spoken and said in the press about the success and achievements  
25 of the Skylab Program and of the men and women who comprised

1 the team which made the Skylab Program a success.

2 For example, in a statement after the Skylab's forced  
3 splashdown, President Nixon called the Skylab Program, and I'll  
4 quote, "...one of the most scientifically, productive  
5 endeavors in the history of human exploration, because Skylab  
6 now joins the ranks of the Santa Maria, the H. M. S. Beagle,  
7 the Spirit of St. Louis and the Eagles." The Eagles are ours.

8 And I think that is undoubtedly correct -- not just  
9 because the President said it, but because, I think, most of  
10 us have come to realize that is a real adventure in exploration  
11 comparable to these other achievements.

12 I would say that puts our Award Winners today, in  
13 very distinguished company. Some of you played a part in the  
14 Eagle landing, as well as the Skylab.

15 Many of us remember, I'll volunteer, the flight of the  
16 Spirit of St. Louis. I don't remember the Beagle and the  
17 Santa Maria.

18 And I can remember -- this is the wrong story --  
19 waiting for hours along the streets, waiting for Charles A.  
20 Lindbergh to come by.

21 And I think the Skylab is a comparable achievement  
22 and will be remembered as such to future generations along  
23 with Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and the other NASA programs --  
24 particularly those of planetary explorations like Pioneer 10  
25 and Mariner 10, Copernicus.

1           And we musn't forget the ( ERTS I). Probably more  
2 pictures have been distributed from the ( ERTS I) than any  
3 other single program.

4           They just have, shall I say, artistic color combina-  
5 tions.

6           I think this is a good time to take a close and  
7 factual look at just what Skylab and the Skylab team have  
8 accomplished.

9           Skylab gave us an orderly transition from the Apollo  
10 Era of Lunar Exploration to the Shuttle Space Lab Era of the  
11 1980's and 1990's when we will stress the scientific and factual  
12 uses of manned and automated spacecraft in Earth orbit.

13           Skylab continued the U.S. leadership in manned space  
14 flights that we worked so hard to obtain in Mercury, and Gemini  
15 and Apollo.

16           Skylab has proved man's ability to live and work  
17 effectively in space for three months and probably beyond.

18           Skylab has demonstrated beyond all doubt the valuable  
19 services that men and women can perform in Earth orbit as  
20 observers, scientists, engineers, and space repairmen.

21           Skylab has provided a great wealth of new scientific  
22 information about the sun and its thermo-nuclear processes, and  
23 about that timely visitor, Comet Kohoutek.

24           Much of this information, could never have been  
25 obtained on the Earth.

1 Skylab has joined ( ERTS I) and other experimental  
2 satellites in demonstrating the value of Earth observation from  
3 space.

4 Skylab experiments have sustained our beliefs that  
5 space processing and space manufacturing will become important  
6 commercial and scientific activities in the Shuttle Era.

7 Skylab has reinforced our ability to encourage  
8 international cooperation in space. The **versatile** space lab,  
9 now under development in Europe, is a direct descendant of  
10 Skylab.

11 We tried very hard to keep that ( Lab) so  
12 Spacelab and Skylab wouldn't be confused, but the Europeans  
13 insisted on Spacelab -- and that's not a bad name when you  
14 think about it. It is a logical extension of the Skylab.

15 Most important of all, Skylab has confirmed the  
16 rightness of our decision to develop a space shuttle and a  
17 space lab in this decade for intensive use in the 1980's and  
18 1990's.

19 As I see it, Skylab has been one of the most productive  
20 satellites. It has been man's first home in space. In fact, I  
21 was talking to -- I've forgotten which one of the astronauts  
22 the other day -- and he said he gets a little homesick from  
23 time to time; although, he was glad to be home when he first  
24 landed.

25 There is opened a new part of the universe beyond

1 Earth but near Earth for occupation and use by human beings.

2 We have shown the world what we meant when we said  
3 that Apollo is not the end, but the beginning.

4 Skylab has been a program marked by great determination.  
5 It was not a one year program, by any means. It was a 471 day  
6 program.

7 It goes back to fiscal '66 as a line item in the  
8 budget, but I understand that **its roots go much further back.**  
9 It's also been a program marked by great enthusiasm -- many  
10 problems but complete dedication.

11 And perhaps the finest compliment that I can pay is  
12 to say how impressed I have been by the complete professionalism  
13 of this program.

14 You did what you set out to do and much more. As  
15 scientists, engineers, and managers you understand what I mean  
16 when I sum up in this way -- "Well done, Skylab team, well done."

17 Now we come to the awards, and in presenting the  
18 awards, I will again ask George Lowe to assist me in handing  
19 out the certificates, and James Kukalski to assist by reading  
20 the names on the citations, which he will do in alphabetical  
21 order.

22 We'll begin with the Group Achievement Awards.

23 : **Thank you, Doctor Fletcher.**

24 The first award to be presented is the Exceptional  
25 Service Medal. Will Maurice Duggan please come forward?



1 This citation is as follows:

2 "For exceptional service for NASA as Program Scientist  
3 for Science Experiments for Skylab which demonstrated the  
4 advantages of having man directly involved in space flight  
5 investigation; for his role as Program Scientist for the Comet  
6 Kohoutek Operation in planning a coordinated, observation  
7 program involving ground-base observatories, aircraft, sounding  
8 rockets, and satellites with major emphasis on Skylab IV.

9 (Applause.)

10 We have nine other Exceptional Service Medals to be  
11 awarded today. They are recipients in the category of Program  
12 Management. Now, the citation reads:

13 "In recognition of his outstanding service in the  
14 Management of the Skylab Program, which successfully culminated  
15 in the world's first operational, space station mission and  
16 opened up a new era in the uses of space for the study of the  
17 sun, the Earth, and man himself, and many other scientific and  
18 practical purposes.

19 "As a key member of the Skylab team, he contributed  
20 significantly to the successful accomplishment of the goals of  
21 the Skylab Program."

22 Following are the recipients who are to receive this  
23 award. Would you please hold your applause until all the  
24 awards are given?

25 First, Edward L. Christianson. Gerard R. David of

1 the Goddard Space Flight Center. Mr. David is in Europe on  
2 business and could not be with us today. A medal and certificate  
3 will be forwarded to him.

4 William D. Green. Mr. Green is also away on business.  
5 His medal and certificate will be forwarded to him.

6 William H. **Hambey**.

7 Joseph M. Martin.

8 James E. Powers, Jr.

9 Our final Skylab Award today, is a special Group  
10 Achievement Award, and we will present it in a rather special  
11 way.

12 We have never done this before, and so, pay attention  
13 and we'll see if it goes well.

14 It is a Group Achievement Award to the entire  
15 Headquarters Office of Manned Space Flight for the contributions  
16 of all of its employees to the Skylab Program.

17 A special Committee Representative with all employees  
18 at the Office, has been selected to receive it along with Bill  
19 Snyder, the Skylab Program Director.

20 And I would like to ask the Committee and Bill to  
21 come forward at this time and to state what they have done.

22 Now, I am going to read the citation at this time  
23 **It says "The** National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
24 presents a Group Achievement Award to the Headquarters Office of  
25 Manned Space Flights, **in** recognition of the outstanding efforts

1 and dedicated service of all of its employees in support of  
2 the Skylab Program in which the U.S. successfully demonstrated  
3 the world's first Orbital Space Station, and established con-  
4 clusively that man can live, work, and produce important  
5 scientific and practical results in long duration space flights."

6 (Applause.)

7 : I have the part, to express thanks  
8 inadequately for an entire organization who did really an  
9 absolutely, outstanding job. And I think this is the best we  
10 could come up with.

11 But take it from me that each of you in that Office  
12 deserves to be up on the stand and receive the congratulations  
13 of the rest of NASA for this outstanding work.

14 At this point, we are going to shift gears -- and  
15 we are not talking about Skylab anymore, particularly, but it  
16 is for Skylab and much more.

17 It is the Distinguished Service Medal, NASA's highest  
18 award. And you are probably wondering why Dale Meyers is here.  
19 This award goes to Dale MEyers for his total service to NASA  
20 in the four years that he has headed all of our Manned Space  
21 Flight Programs since 1970.

22 It was a very great loss to NASA, needless to say,  
23 when Dale recently decided to leave us and to return to private  
24 industry.

25 We are very much indebted to Dale during his years

1 with us. It's almost impossible to believe that during these  
2 four years, the Apollo and Skylab Programs have been successfully  
3 completed.

4 The experimental Joint-Test Program with the Soviet  
5 Union has been well advanced, and the Space Shuttle -- and, by  
6 the way, conceived under his aegis -- and the Space Shuttle  
7 has been established as our next major manned effort in space.

8 It is for all of these achievements that we honor  
9 Dale today. As I look back on Dale's service in the Space  
10 Program, I can think of no instance that better symbolizes his  
11 great ability and his great value to us **than** during the hours  
12 last year when he was trying to decide what to do about Skylab.

13 As you remember, we had some problems at the beginning.  
14 But just 12 minutes after the space craft was launched, and  
15 we began to realize that the workshop **solar** panels had not  
16 been **deployed**, it became clear to us that we had to have a  
17 sun shield to protect the workshop.

18 Dale moved into action, and it was in that emergency  
19 that Dale sent out a call for all ideas -- all that we could  
20 get -- and so well-organized was his office that it was only a  
21 matter of hours before work was under way on the parasol-like  
22 concept that finally helped solve the problem.

23 And we had several other concepts that probably would  
24 have worked if the parasol had not. This whole thing was put  
25 together by NASA, but at Dale's instigation, in a matter of ten

1 days, and put together and launched and deployed -- almost an  
2 impossible maneuver from anybody's standpoint.

3 So, it is with this reminder of this great example of  
4 American success, that we present Dale with the Distinguished  
5 Service Medal.

6 This is the second time he has received it so in lieu  
7 of a Medal, he will be given a ribbon attachment. I would like  
8 to read both citations at this time.

9 Dale do you want to stand up somewhere while I read  
10 this citation?

11 This reads:

12 "To Dale B. Meyers. The NASA Distinguished Service  
13 Medal.

14 "For his distinguished service to NASA as Associate  
15 Administrator for Manned Space Flights. Under his able and  
16 dedicated leadership, Apollo made its greatest contributions to  
17 science in the final IV lunar landing.

18 "Skylab became the world's first orbital space station  
19 and demonstrated conclusively that man can live, work, and  
20 produce important scientific and factual results in long  
21 duration space flight.

22 "And the Space Shuttle which designed, improved, and  
23 started into development as the key element in our future  
24 capabilities in space."

25 Congratulations to Dale.

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(Applause.)

In case you are wondering who that attractive, young lady is who is standing with Dale, it is Mrs. Meyers.

Now, we have no other festivities this morning for you. That concludes our program, but I would like to say how much I appreciate your attendance -- particularly those who received the awards, how much we appreciate your performance on the Skylab Program.

Thank you.

(END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the tape recording represented by the foregoing pages was transcribed by me, or under my direction; that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

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